



Committee on Homeland Security

Democrats

**Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking
Member**

www.house.gov/hsc/democrats/

April 27, 2005

Contact: Nadra Harrison
202.226.2616

DEMOCRATS TO INTRODUCE AMENDMENT ON ENHANCING ACCOUNTABILITY:

“Address Management Challenges at the Department of Homeland Security”

April 27, 2005, Washington, DC — The House Committee on Homeland Security met in open mark-up session today to consider the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for FY 2006.

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security said during the markup, **“The Department of Homeland Security’s organizational structure needs to be fixed. Experts from within the government, as well as from the private sector and academia, have all raised questions about the Department’s structure and the challenge it faces. One of the things that we need to do to assure that the Department is operating properly is fix the front offices – the CIO, the Inspector General’s Office, and the Privacy Office, to just name a few.”**

The amendment addresses the management challenges at the Department supplied the Office of Inspector General with the resources it needs to conduct independent and objective audits and investigations. It gives the Department’s employees bargaining rights as well as rights to have disputes reviewed and resolved by external bodies. Provisions in the amendment also call for strengthening the Department’s Privacy Office and to provide authority to the Department’s Chief Information Officer in order to protect and integrate all of the Department’s data and technology equipment.

###